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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/620,107

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12/07/2005

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EXAMINER

DANG, HUNG Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,107

Applicant(s)

YAMASHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Hung Q. Dang

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: The word "form" on the last line of claim 13 should be changed to "from". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4, 8, 10-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson et al. U.S. Patent 6,477,424.

**Regarding claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 15**, Thompson et al. teaches a connection assembly (Figure 3, unit 15) detachably connected to a main body of a medical apparatus (Figure 3, unit 12) for use in diagnosis and treatment, wherein said connection assembly has a communication means for sending and receiving (See figure 3, the arrows indicate sending and receiving) the information on said connection body to and from said medical apparatus.

**Regarding claim 2**, Thompson et al. also teaches serial/parallel communication (column 12, lines 55-66).

**Regarding claim 3**, the communication means disclosed by Thompson et al. also has a storage means for memorizing and storing the information on said connection assembly (column 12, lines 55-66).

**Regarding claim 4**, Thompson et al. also teaches a microcomputer element for used as said communication means (Figure 3, unit 128).

**Regarding claim 11**, Thompson et al. also teaches a driving circuit corresponding to the connected connection assembly.

**Regarding claim 12**, Thompson et al. also teaches setting a display mode of display means (Figure 7, unit 291).

**Regarding claim 14**, Thompson et al. also teaches a communication integration element as a communication means for said connection assembly to be connected (Figure 3, unit 130).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 6, 9, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thompson et al. U.S. Patent 6,477,424.

**Regarding claims 5, 6, 13 and 16**, Thompson et al. teaches the connection assembly as set forth in claim 1. Even though, Thompson et al. does not specifically mention said information is an identification information for identifying said connection assembly, however, Thompson et al. does teach an information management system (unit 13), which can be configured for acceptance of one or **more** plug-in modules (column 6, lines 18-23), which implies that said plug-in modules (or connection assembly) have to have some sort of ID(s) in order to identify itself with said management system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide said connection assembly with an identification, as explained above.

**Regarding claim 9**, Thompson et al. teaches a charging battery in the medical information management system, NOT in the connection assembly. However, one skilled in the art would recognize that such connection assembly would need to be powered up somehow, if not from outlet then from battery power. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a charging battery to the connection assembly disclosed by Thompson et al. in order to power up said connection assembly.

#### Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.

Art Unit: 2635

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (571) 272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hung Q. Dang  
11/29/2005  
H.D.

H/D

MICHAEL HORABIK  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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